*3. Gujarat	41—Malia	1.1.88	Death
4. Madhya Pradesh	9—Gohad (SC)	18.7 87	Death
	16—Lashkar East	2.6.87	Death
	274—Indore—V	25 2 87	Resignation. Election petition pending.
	104—Kharsia	22.2.88	Resignation
5. Rajasthan	25—Khetri	22.5.87	Death
6. Tripura	51—Fatikrey	Counter-manded	
7. Uttar Pradesh	133—Tanda	13.1.87	Death
	403—Chaprauli	25.10.87	Death
8. West Bengal	10—Kumargram	4.12.87	Death
	258—Barabani	14.12.87	Death
9. Pondicherry	25—Neraby-Grand Aldee	9.11.87	Death

NOTE :—As per press reports the seat from 31-Dwarka in Gujarat has also allegedly fallen vacant due to the death of the sitting candidate. The Election Commission is, however yet to receive an official confirmation.

People Living below the Poverty Line

2330. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of people living below the poverty line in the country, the State-wise details thereof, and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve their economic condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) According to latest estimates of persons living below poverty line for the year 1983-84, which are based on the 38th round of National Sample Survey Organisation on Household Consumer Expenditure, 2710.0 lakhs persons were below the poverty line in the country. A statement indicating the State-wise number of persons below poverty line in 1983-84 is enclosed (*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 87].

(b) Removal of poverty remains the central concern of planning in India. While the planned development of the economy helps in improving job opportunities, income levels and living conditions of all sections of society, policies and programmes, in addition, have been devised to directly attack the problem of poverty. Accordingly, the Sixth Five Year Plan had set out a two pronged strategy to deal with the problem of poverty. Emphasis was laid on accelerating the pace of agricultural development with the hope that it would have a beneficial effect on raising standard of living of the poorer sections of the society. On the other hand it was decided to strengthen and expand the scope of beneficiary oriented anti-poverty programmes in rural areas. Consistent with this approach the Seventh Plan lays emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, incraesed proudctivity of rice in Eastern region, developing the potential of

dry land agriculture, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers and expansion of irrigation facilities.

There is also a provision for special component plan for the uplift of Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-plans for upliftment of Scheduled Tribes for which substantial provisions have been made in the plan by way of special central assistance. The National Minimum Needs Programme is expected to directly supplement the living standards of the poor through the provision of basic amenities of life to them.

The major poverty alleviation programmes launched in the Sixth Plan were the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Gurantee Programme (RLEGP). These programmes are being continued with substantially higher outlays and a sharper focus during the Seventh Plan.

गरीबी हटाने की योजनायें

2331. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक** : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गरीबी को हटाने के लिए सरकार ने एक योजना तैयार की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इस योजना से राज्यवार कितने लोगों को लाभ होने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस योजना को कब तक लागू किये जाने का विचार है ?

योजना मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बीरेन सिंह इंगती) : (क) से (ग) देश में गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए कोई नई योजना तैयार नहीं की गई है। तथापि, भारत में आयोजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य गरीबी उन्मूलन है। इस उद्देश्य के अनुरूप, सातवीं योजना की विकास संबंधी कार्यनीति तथा इससे उत्पन्न विकास के पैटर्न से यह आशा है कि गरीबी में कमी होगी। त्वरित कृषि विकास, पूर्वी भारत में चावल की उत्पादकता में वृद्धि, बारानी कृषि क्षमता विकसित करने, छोटे और सीमांतिक किसानों की आय तथा उत्पादकता में वृद्धि करने के विशेष उपाय करने, न्यूनतम आवश्यकता कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन तथा सिंचाई सुविधाओं के विस्तार पर जो बल दिया गया है, उससे गरीबी हटाने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान मिलेगा। इसके अतिरिक्त सातवीं योजना में गरीबी उन्मूलन और रोजगार प्रदान करने वाले अनेक कार्यक्रम शामिल हैं जो विशेष रूप से गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की आय और उत्पादकता में बढ़ोतरी करने के वास्ते बनाए गए हैं।

Social Insurance Scheme for Indians Employed in Saudi Arabia

2332. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there exists a social insurance scheme for Indians employed in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefit under the scheme has not yet been passed on to the expatriate workers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that payments of the amount under the scheme are made to the expatriate workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Social Insurance Scheme (known as General Organisation of Social Insurance) for expatriates including Indians employed in Saudi Arabia was abolished in March, 1987.